



**VIRGINIA'S
HEALTH
IS IN YOUR
HANDS.**
Do your part,
stop the spread.

VDH Test to Stay Program Webinar

January 12, 2022

Webinar Agenda



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Overview of Test to Stay Strategy

Expectations of Participating Schools

Details of TTS Protocol

When to Test Scenarios

Eligibility Scenarios

Additional School Resources

Questions

What is Test to Stay (TTS)?



- A practice of contact tracing and serial testing that allows school-associated close contacts who are not fully vaccinated to continue in-person learning
- An **alternative** to traditional at-home quarantine to minimize the impact of quarantine and school absences

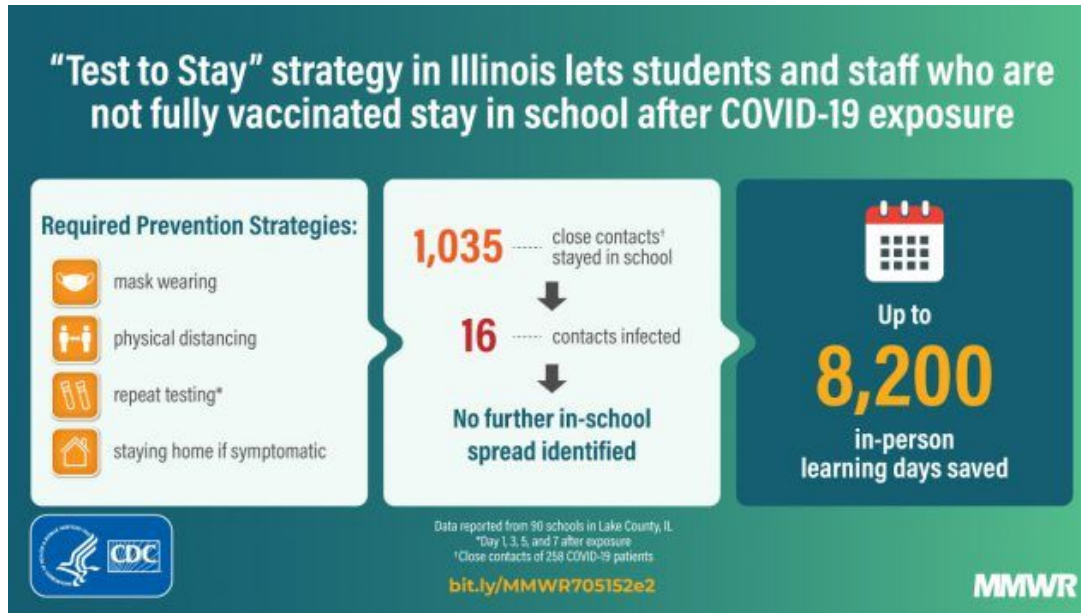
To remain in school, close contacts must:



Centers for Disease Control (CDC)

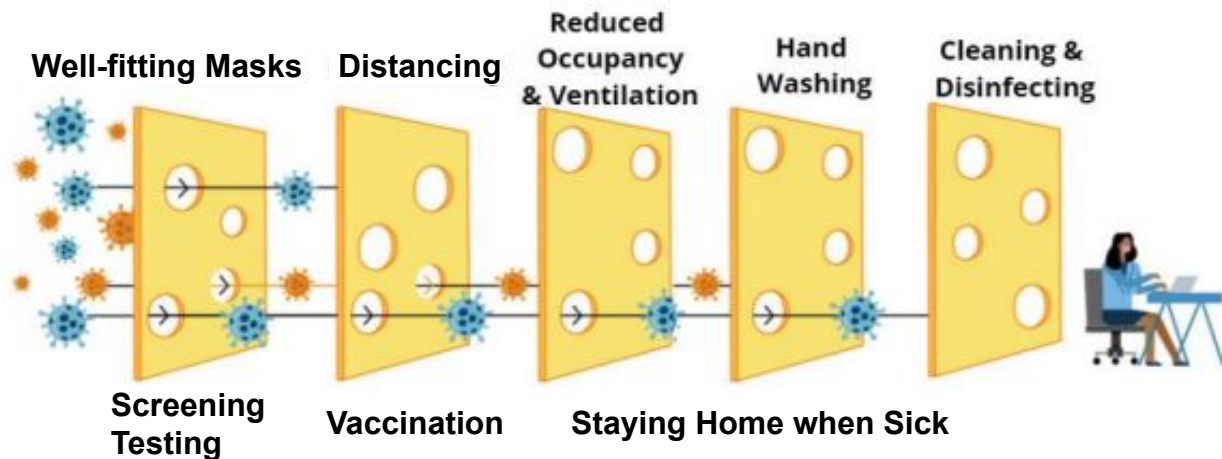


- The CDC has endorsed the TTS strategy
- Initial studies found low in-school COVID-19 transmission with TTS



TTS is a valuable tool in a **layered** prevention strategy

The "Swiss Cheese" Model of COVID-19 Mitigation in Schools

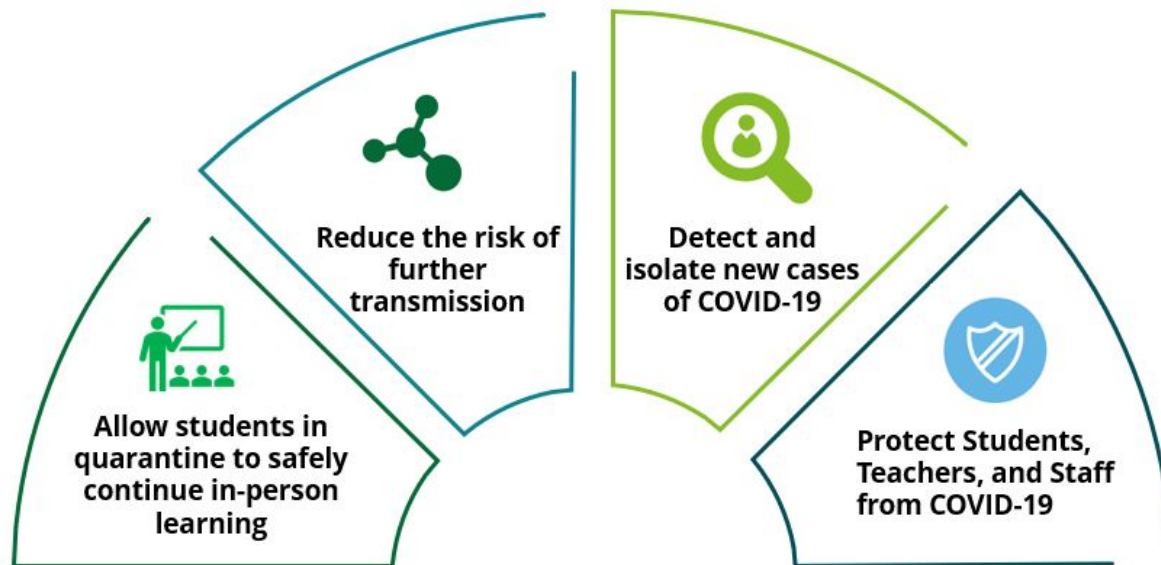


PolicyLab adapted this graphic from the Cleveland Clinic's "Swiss Cheese Approach to COVID Mitigation"

Goal of TTS in K-12 Schools



→ When schools implement **TTS combined with other mitigation strategies**, they can:



And limit the impact of school absences on students & the entire school community

TTS is a **resource-intensive** strategy

Participating schools must have:



Universal masking requirement in place (strongly advised)

Adequate resources to conduct contact tracing, testing, and monitoring, including

- Designated school point of contact for parents and the local health department
- Ability to inform school community of the program, distribute and store consent forms, and distribute test kits & supplies
- Ability to monitor participants' daily symptoms, mask use, and COVID test results, and communicate with families when a student is released from TTS, or is no longer able to participate

Adequate resources to track and report data to VDH (e.g., test kits, enrollment)

Understanding of potential for increased risk of transmission

Appropriate paperwork on file for utilizing BinaxNOW test kits

VDH's Role

- Resource participating schools with test kits, protocols, and associated guidance
- Provide technical assistance (including a School Support Unit point of contact) and answer questions
- Assess feasibility of TTS implementation and continued resources needed to support TTS

TTS Protocol: Overview



- The **Test to Stay Protocol** is VDH guidance and incorporates the latest CDC guidelines (subject to change based on updated science or guidelines)
- Includes guidance on:
 - Who is a close contact in the K-12 setting
 - Who is eligible for Test to Stay
 - How and when to test students in Test to Stay
 - What additional monitoring of students is required
 - What to do if a student becomes sick, tests positive, or cannot wear a mask
 - Special situations:
 - Lunch, sports, extra-curriculars

TTS Protocol: Who is a close contact?



→ Close contact is defined as:

- ◆ Being within 6 ft of a person with COVID-19 for a total of 15 min or more over a 24- hour period; or
- ◆ Direct exposure to respiratory secretions; or
- ◆ Caring for or living with a person who has COVID-19; or

Exception: In indoor and outdoor K-12 settings, a student who was within 3 to 6 feet of an infected student is **not considered a close contact as long as both students wore well-fitting masks** the entire time.

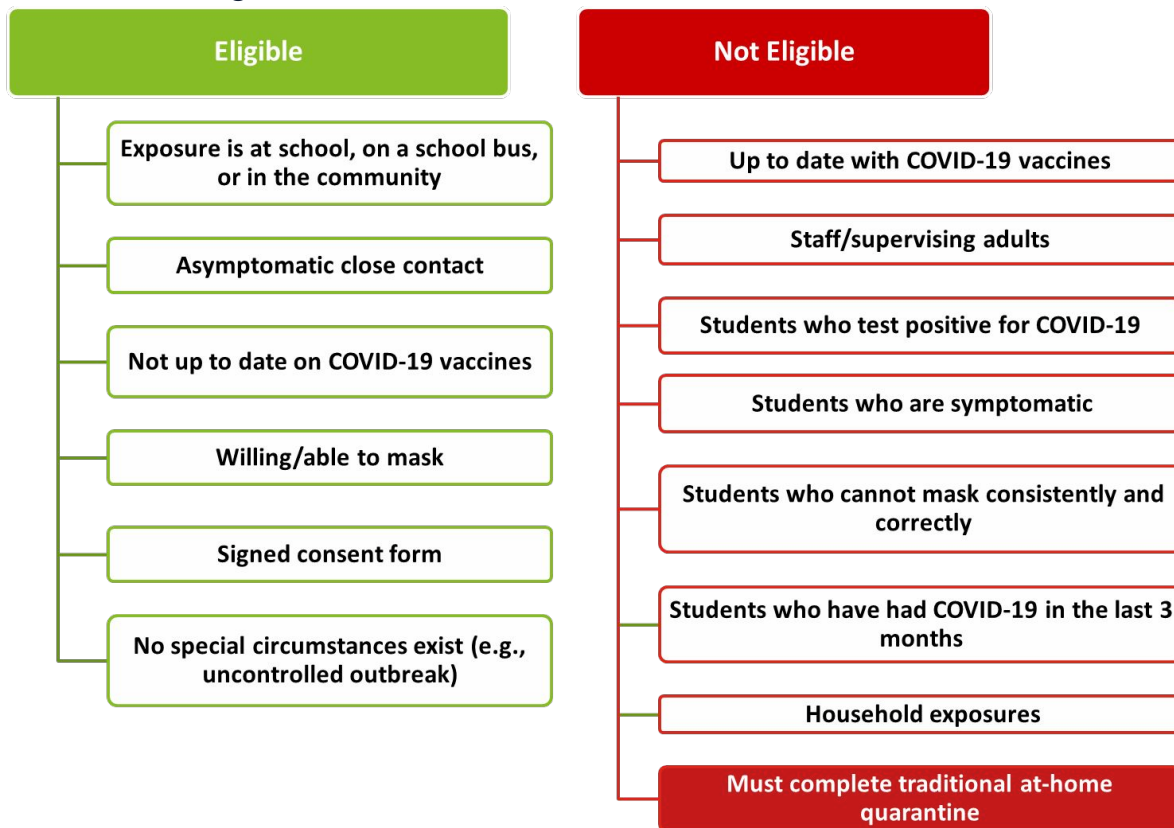
→ Applies to school buses when there are documented seating charts and assurance that masks are worn and students remain in assigned seats

TTS Protocol: Who is eligible?



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Currently recommend limiting to close contacts who are **students**

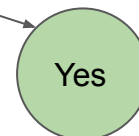
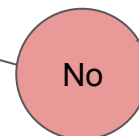
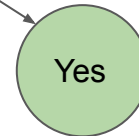
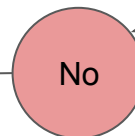
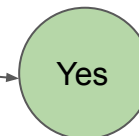
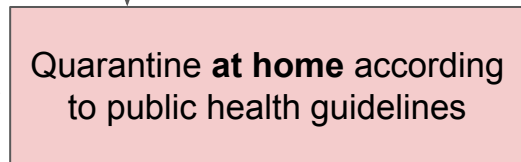
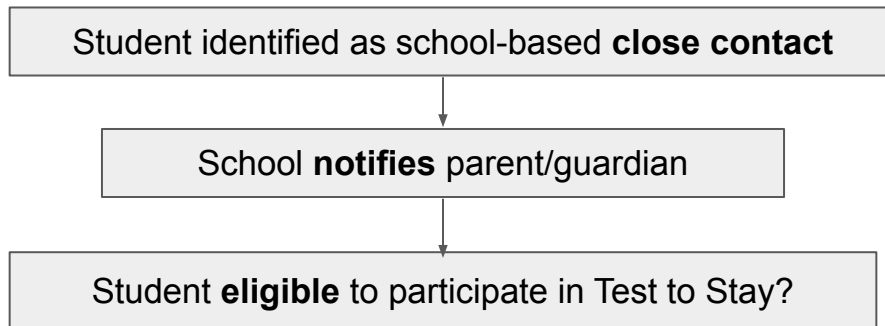


Impact of Boosters on Eligibility

If they meet all other eligibility criteria, the following students are eligible:

- Those 18 years or older who have **NOT** received all recommended vaccine doses, including boosters.
- Those 5 - 17 years old who have **NOT** completed the primary series of COVID-19 vaccines.

Based on [CDC Quarantine and Isolation Guidelines](#) (1/4/22)



TTS Protocol: Eligibility and Enrollment

TTS Protocol: Testing on Days 1-5

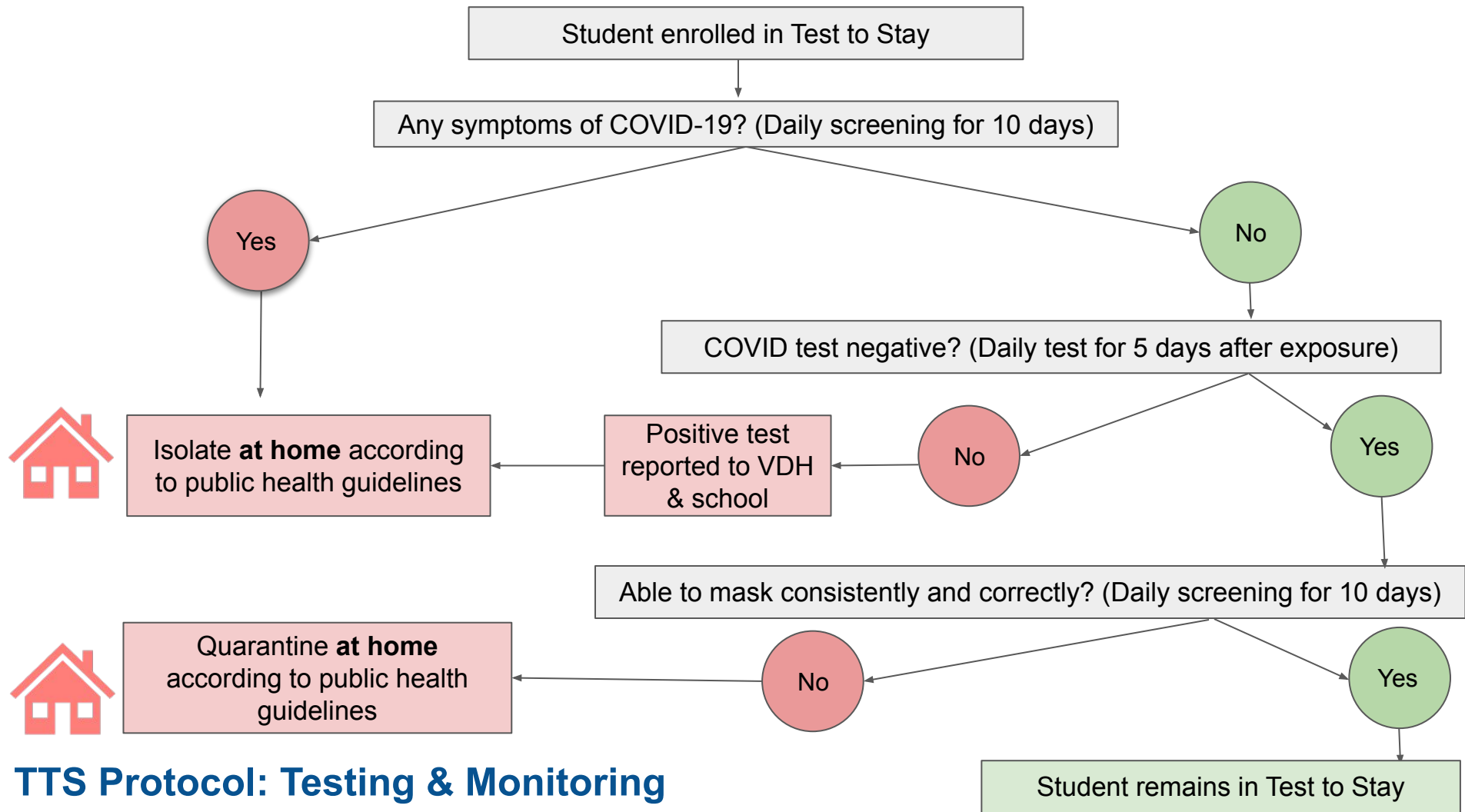


1. Determine the **date of exposure** (**Exposure Date = Day 0**)
2. Rapid **COVID-19 test every morning** on school days for 5 days after exposure (**Days 1- 5**)
 - May test **at home** with a proctored test (e.g. eMed Abbott BinaxNOW Antigen At Home Test Kit), or on arrival to **school** (if driven to school by parent) if the school has resources
 - No test on weekends or holidays, but student should still quarantine (no parties, sports, etc.)
 - Need at least one negative rapid test on or after the 5th day
3. Keep the student **in school** as long they:
 - Remain asymptomatic;
 - Wear a mask all of the time, except when eating and drinking; and
 - Take a rapid test every morning before school and it is negative
4. Send the student **home to isolate** if they test positive, develop symptoms, or cannot mask

TTS Protocol: Monitoring on Days 6-10



1. Ensure student continues to **mask and monitor for symptoms** for an **additional 5 days** after testing is over (**Days 6-10**)
2. Release the student from Test to Stay **after Day 10**, if all requirements are completed
3. Send the student **home to isolate** if they test positive, develop symptoms, or cannot mask at any point



TTS Protocol: What to do in specific situations?

Lunchtime (students **cannot mask**)

Days 1- 10: Distance at least **6 feet away** from others

School-associated sports practice and competitions

Days 1-5 (testing period): Must quarantine. **May not participate.**

Non school-related activities (parties, recreational sporting events, etc.)

Days 6-10: Must wear mask. May participate if strict mask use possible. (Recognize increased risk of transmission while playing sports.)

TTS Protocol: What to do in specific situations?

Other school-based extracurricular activities

Days 1-5: May participate, if masked and distanced >3 feet

Days 6-10: May participate, if strict mask use possible.

School bus

Days 1-5: May ride, if masked and distanced >3 feet, if they have a **negative COVID-19 test that morning**

Days 6-10: May ride, if strict mask use possible.

TTS Testing Example #1- Testing days fall on weekends

	Day 0	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	Day 8	Day 9	Day 10
Exposure day	Thursday										
Testing days		Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Did the individual have a negative rapid test this morning? (yes/no)			X	X			X	X	X	X	X
Is the individual asymptomatic? No signs or symptoms of COVID-19 have occurred since their last check-in. (yes/no)			X	X						X	X
Is the individual willing and able to wear a mask at all times (except when eating and drinking throughout the school day)? (yes/no)			X	X						X	X

* Testing and symptom monitoring will begin on the day of exposure or as soon as possible thereafter (some individuals may not be identified as a close contact on Day 0, so monitoring will begin as soon as they are identified).

* Student does not test on days 2 and 3 because they fall on weekends. However, they must quarantine on these days (i.e. the individual is not to attend birthday parties, sporting events, or any other group activities on these days).

"Yes" to all questions listed above

Student may proceed to classroom, wearing their mask properly at all times except while eating or drinking

"No" to any of the questions listed above

If student receives a positive test and/or becomes symptomatic, student should be sent home immediately and asked to **isolate** according to the established school protocol for COVID-19 positive individuals.

If student is unwilling/ unable to wear a mask at all times (except when eating and drinking), the student should be sent home and asked to **quarantine** according to the established school protocol for close contacts.

During weekends/holidays

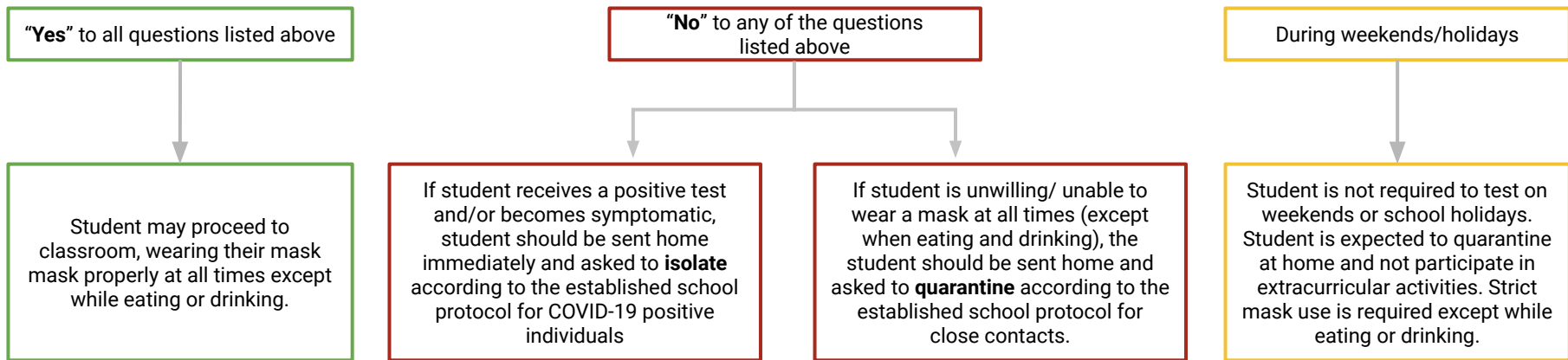
Student is not required to test on weekends or school holidays. Student is expected to quarantine at home and not participate in extracurricular activities. Strict mask use is required except while eating or drinking.

TTS Testing Example #2: Testing day falls on holiday

	Day 0	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	Day 8	Day 9	Day 10
Exposure day	Thursday										
Testing days		Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Did the individual have a negative rapid test this morning? (yes/no)			X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
Is the individual asymptomatic? No signs or symptoms of COVID-19 have occurred since their last check-in. (yes/no)			X	X	X					X	X
Is the individual willing and able to wear a mask at all times (except when eating and drinking throughout the school day)? (yes/no)			X	X	X					X	X

* Testing and symptom monitoring will begin on the day of exposure or as soon as possible thereafter (some individuals may not be identified as a close contact on Day 0, so monitoring will begin as soon as they are identified).

* Student does not test on days 2 and 3 because they fall on weekends and does not test on day 4 because it is a holiday. However, they must quarantine on these days (i.e. the individual is not to attend birthday parties, sporting events, or any other group activities on these days).



TTS Testing Example #3: Days 3-5 fall on a holiday

	Day 0	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	Day 8	Day 9	Day 10
Exposure day	Wednesday										
Testing days		Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Did the individual have a negative rapid test this morning? (yes/no)				X	X	X		X	X	X	X
Is the individual asymptomatic? No signs or symptoms of COVID-19 have occurred since their last check-in. (yes/no)				X	X	X					X
Is the individual willing and able to wear a mask at all times (except when eating and drinking throughout the school day)? (yes/no)				X	X	X					X

* Testing and symptom monitoring will begin on the day of exposure or as soon as possible thereafter (some individuals may not be identified as a close contact on Day 0, so monitoring will begin as soon as they are identified).

* Student does not test on days 3 and 4 because they fall on weekends and day 5 because it is a holiday. However, the student must test on day 6 because there needs to be a negative test on day 5 or later. Also, they must quarantine on these days (i.e. the individual is not to attend birthday parties, sporting events, or any other group activities on these days).

* **Student must test on day 6 because there has not been a negative test on day 5 or later.**

"Yes" to all questions listed above

"No" to any of the questions listed above

During weekends/holidays

Student may proceed to classroom, wearing their mask properly at all times except while eating or drinking

If student receives a positive test and/or becomes symptomatic, student should be sent home immediately and asked to **isolate** according to the established school protocol for COVID-19 positive individuals

If student is unwilling/ unable to wear a mask at all times (except when eating and drinking), the student should be sent home and asked to **quarantine** according to the established school protocol for close contacts.

Student is not required to test on weekends or holidays. Student is expected to quarantine at home and not participate in extracurricular activities. Strict mask use is still required except while eating or drinking.

TTS Testing Example #4: Exposure notification on Day 3

	Day 0	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	Day 8	Day 9	Day 10
Exposure day	Friday										
Testing days		Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
Did the individual have a negative rapid test this morning? (yes/no)							X	X	X	X	X
Is the individual asymptomatic? No signs or symptoms of COVID-19 have occurred since their last check-in. (yes/no)									X	X	
Is the individual willing and able to wear a mask at all times (except when eating and drinking throughout the school day)? (yes/no)									X	X	
* Testing and symptom monitoring will begin on the day of exposure or as soon as possible thereafter (some individuals may not be identified as a close contact on Day 0, so monitoring will begin as soon as they are identified).											
* Student was not notified of exposure until day 3 post exposure. The student is tested on days 3-5 and then proceeds to the mask only phase of the TTS protocol.											

"Yes" to all questions listed above

"No" to any of the questions listed above

During weekends/holidays

Student may proceed to classroom, wearing their mask properly at all times except while eating or drinking

If student receives a positive test and/or becomes symptomatic, student should be sent home immediately and asked to **isolate** according to the established school protocol for COVID-19 positive individuals

If student is unwilling/ unable to wear a mask at all times (except when eating and drinking), the student should be sent home and asked to **quarantine** according to the established school protocol for close contacts.

Student is not required to test on weekends or holidays. Student is expected to quarantine at home and not participate in extracurricular activities. Strict mask use is still required except while eating or drinking.

Scenario #1: Exposure during sports



Two unvaccinated basketball players, Jane and Mary, are masked during practice. Jane is infected with COVID-19 and Mary is considered an exposed close contact. Mary is asymptomatic.

- Jane must go home (she has COVID-19) and **ISOLATE**.
- Mary would normally be asked to quarantine but is **eligible for Test to Stay**. If she chooses to participate in Test to Stay, and remains asymptomatic, she can continue to attend school but would need to miss basketball practice during the 5-day testing period.

Scenario #2: Exposure during lunch



Karina and Jaden sat next to each other during lunch on Monday. They sat 3 feet apart for 30 minutes and did not wear masks. On Tuesday, Karina develops symptoms, stays home from school, and has a positive COVID-19 test. Jaden has no symptoms, feels well, is not up-to-date with his vaccinations, and is able to mask.

- Karina must stay home and **ISOLATE**.
- Jaden is a school-associated close-contact. Although they were 3 feet apart in a K-12 setting, this was an exposure as both students were unmasked. He must **QUARANTINE**. He has the option to complete a traditional quarantine at home or **participate in Test to Stay**.

Scenario #3: Community exposure



Derrick and Janet attend a birthday party together on Saturday. Both have only received 1 dose of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine. On Monday, Janet begins exhibiting symptoms and tests positive for COVID-19. Derrick is identified as a community-exposed close contact, but feels well and is asymptomatic.

- Neither Derrick nor Janet is up-to-date on their COVID-19 vaccinations.
- Janet must stay home and **ISOLATE**;
- Derrick would normally be asked to quarantine but is **eligible for Test to Stay**. If he chooses to participate in Test to Stay, and remains asymptomatic, he can continue to attend school but would need to miss soccer practice during the 5-day testing period.

Scenario #4: Household exposure

Not eligible for TTS



Michael's father, whom he lives with, tested positive for COVID-19 over the weekend. Michael is not up-to-date on his vaccinations, he feels well, and has no symptoms.

- Michael is **not eligible** for Test to Stay because this was a household exposure, and he must quarantine at home.

Scenario #5: Cannot mask

Not eligible for TTS

Maya has autism and is in a special education classroom. She was identified as a school-associated close contact after an exposure to Max, another student with autism who tested positive for COVID-19. Neither student is able to wear a mask consistently or correctly. Maya is not fully vaccinated and has no symptoms.

- Max must go home and **ISOLATE**.
- Maya must **QUARANTINE** at home for 10 days. She is **not eligible** for Test to Stay because she is not able to correctly and consistently wear a mask. Because she cannot wear a mask, she must complete the full quarantine at home.

Additional Resources for Schools

- Consent Form for Parents to Enroll Child in Test to Stay
- School Checklists
- Daily Monitoring Form (test results, symptoms, dates)
- Implementation Checklist
- Sample Letter to Community
- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) about Test to Stay
- eMed BinaxNOW Testing resources: at-home guide for parents
- Data Tracking Sheet

Implementation Checklist



- ☐ **Test Kits & Supplies**
- ☐ **Staffing**
- ☐ **Coordination with the Local Health Department**
- ☐ **Coordination with the School Support Unit**
- ☐ **Distribute and Store Consent Forms**
- ☐ **Information Sharing**
- ☐ **Contact Tracing**
- ☐ **Monitor Participants**
- ☐ **Distribute Test Kits & Supplies**
- ☐ **Identify & Share Concerns and Solutions**

Next steps for schools

- Complete Attestation Form and send back to Karen Mask at Karen.Mask@doe.virginia.gov
- Review TTS protocol and let us know if you have any questions
- Determine school point of contact and use implementation guide to begin planning
- Follow up with VDH - join “Office Hours” for questions/concerns
- **Friday, January 14th from 12:30 - 1:30 PM EST**

Virginia Department of Health Test to Stay Pilot Attestation Form

School Division Name:

School Division Address:

OR

School Name:

School Address:

Prior to starting the Test to Stay pilot strategy, participating school divisions and schools must agree to adhere to the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) recommended Test to Stay protocol. Test to Stay designated COVID-19 rapid antigen tests will only be shipped to the school divisions/schools that submit an attestation form as described below.

Please complete, sign, and submit this form to Karen.Mask@doe.virginia.gov with “COVID-19 TTS Attestation Form” and your school division or school name in the subject line. By completing this form, you agree to comply with the VDH recommended Test to Stay protocol.

Please check and sign below:

- ☐ I have read and agree to adhere to the Virginia Department of Health recommended Test to Stay protocol.
- ☐ I understand that a completed Attestation Form and compliance with the Test to Stay protocol is required to receive Test to Stay COVID-19 rapid antigen test kits from VDH.

School Official's Name:

School Official's Signature:

Date:

Frequently Asked Questions

- Why are household exposures not eligible to participate?
- Why are teachers and staff excluded from the program?
- Why are students not allowed to participate in sports during the first five days of Test to Stay?
- Why is mask use required on weekends and holidays during Test to Stay when the student is not at school?

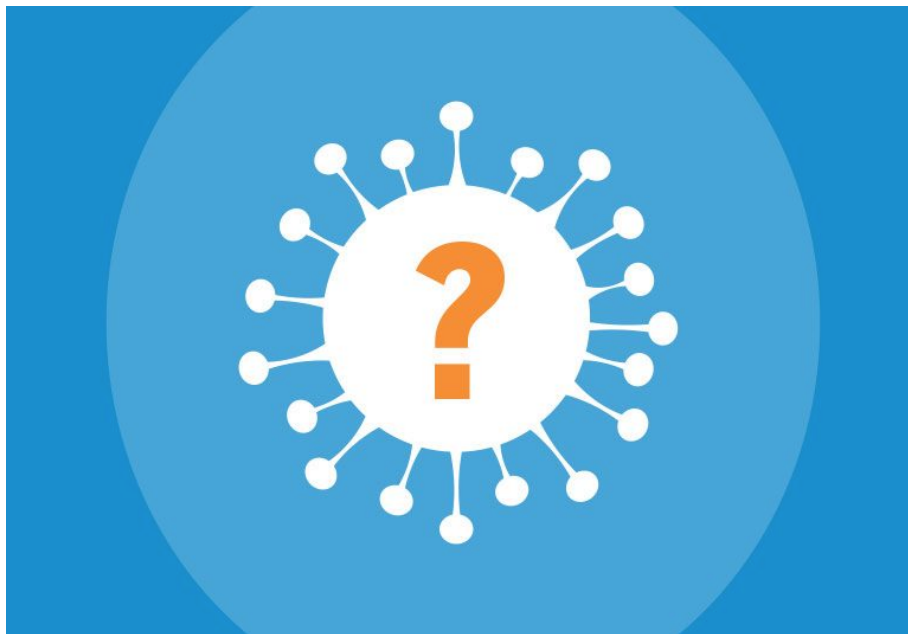
And more...

Answers to these questions are found at the end of the protocol document you will receive.

Questions?



→ Contact Gretchen Dunne at
gretchen.dunne@vdh.virginia.gov



Thank you!